

**Spurling, Norman**

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**From:** Miller, Robert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 6:20 AM  
**To:** Spurling, Norman  
**Cc:** Panger, Melissa  
**Subject:** FW: Loss report for owl in Sacramento County  
**Attachments:** P2750.pdf

A new rodenticide incident from California.

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**From:** McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [<mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:46 PM  
**To:** [agcomm@saccounty.net](mailto:agcomm@saccounty.net); Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Martin, Jeanne@CDPR; Miller, Robert; Kratville, David@CDFA  
**Subject:** Loss report for owl in Sacramento County

Please find attached a loss report. If you have any comments, please contact me.

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Senior Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory  
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**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
WILDLIFE BRANCH  
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY  
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS  
1701 NIMBUS ROAD  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670  
PHONE (916) 358-2954**

**Lab Number P-2750**

**CAHFS D1400464**

**Date of loss: January 6, 2014**

**Species: Great horned owl**

**Listing Status: No special status**

**To: Juli Jensen  
Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner**

**Report Date: February 11, 2014**

**Remarks**

Investigation of great horned owl mortality in Sacramento County.

**Background**

On January 6, 2014, a dead great horned owl, *Bubo virginianus*, was found by a resident in the Florin area of Sacramento. The owl was brought to the CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine cause of death.

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**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

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The necropsy was performed at California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory on January 10, 2014. The owl was found to be an adult male in fair nutritional condition but with severe autolysis. Hemorrhaging was observed in the right pectoral and shoulder area and blood stains were observed on the leg feathers and feet skin. No signs of trauma were noted. A fluoroscopic examination at the CDFW Wildlife Forensics Laboratory was negative for the presence of radio-dense objects such as bullets, bullet fragments or shotgun pellets. Tests for West Nile Virus and avian influenza were negative. The liver was analyzed for anticoagulant rodenticides and two were detected: 0.059 ppm brodifacoum and 0.29 ppm bromadiolone.

A diagnosis of anticoagulant intoxication requires both the presence of one or more anticoagulant rodenticides in appropriate tissue (in this case, liver) and signs of abnormal bleeding without an identified cause, such as trauma. Given the signs of hemorrhaging without other signs of trauma such as broken bones or ammunition and the presence of two second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, it is likely that this owl died as a consequence of anticoagulant intoxication.

**WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY**

*Stella McMillin*

**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

Approved



**Steve Torres, Program Manager,  
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Rich Bireley,  
DPR Registration**

**Jeanne Martin,  
DPR Enforcement**

**Dr. Debbie Daniels,  
DPR Registration**

**Robert Miller,  
USEPA**

**David Kratville,  
CDFA**